

A RESOLUTION TO URGE THE PRESIDENT TO PRESENT A PRESIDENTIAL CITIZENS MEDAL TO FREDERICK DOUGLASS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2003

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the President to present posthumously a Presidential Citizens Medal to Frederick Douglass, in recognition of his achievements in civil rights and service to the nation.

Abolitionist, editor, orator, reformer, and civil rights activist, Frederick Douglass was one of the most influential African-American leaders of the 19th century. The fourth of seven children born to a field hand in Talbot County, MD, Frederick Douglass escaped slavery with great adversity to become a forefather in civil and women's rights.

Throughout his extraordinary life, Frederick Douglass gained international prominence for his lecturing and autobiographical writings, in which he detailed the callousness of slavery. However, his notoriety was largely attributed to the founding of the North Star, a weekly newspaper that not only spoke out against slavery and oppression, but also served as a station on the Underground Railroad.

Douglass' civil rights achievements were also highlighted by a successful political career. As a staunch Republican, Douglass served as an advisor to Presidents Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson. He was appointed as Assistant Secretary of the Commission of Inquiry to Santo Domingo by President Ulysses S. Grant, was appointed U.S. Marshal of the District of Columbia by President Rutherford B. Hayes, and was named Recorder of Deeds for the District of Columbia in 1881 by President James L. Garfield, all of which were firsts for African Americans.

My Speaker, for these achievements and many others, which are too numerous to name, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and the subsequent letter to the President urging him to posthumously present a Presidential Citizens Medal in honor of Frederick Douglass.

FEBRUARY SCHOOL OF THE MONTH

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2003

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I have named Meadow Elementary in the Baldwin Union Free School District as School of the Month in the Fourth Congressional District for February 2003. Mrs. Joan M. Flatley is the Principal at Meadow School, Ms. Cora Ianuario is Assistant Principal, and Dr. Kathy Weiss is the Superintendent of Schools in the Baldwin Union Free School District. The school has 750 students in grades Kindergarten through 5.

The Meadow Elementary School Community is a close-knit body of parents, teachers, students, and administrators. Their goal is to ensure each child a stable early education

through an enriched curriculum that keeps the children excited, and unique programs that appeal to a wide variety of younger children.

The new Character Education Program and the school's determination to create a caring environment for everyone shows the strong commitment Meadow Elementary has to developing student character. Each month Meadow students and staff focus on different character traits, and are rewarded for efforts to achieving the month's traits. The Program emphasizes traits that students should strive for, such as: responsibility, cooperation, respect, generosity, perseverance, acceptance/tolerance, honesty, compassion, fairness, and self-discipline.

The Meadow School has many wonderful programs designed to ensure each child receives individual attention. The special education program is unique to the school. All students in the district, in grades Kindergarten through 5, requiring special education go to Meadow. Currently, there are 80 students in the program. Also, the English as a Second Language program helps 30 students every day conquer their fears and language barriers.

Long Island students receive a better education thanks to the faculty and teachers of Meadow Elementary School and I am proud to name them school of the month for February.

CONGRATULATING COACH ROBERT CAPELLO ON HIS 800TH CAREER VICTORY

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2003

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues the remarkably successful coaching career of Robert Capello, the long-time coach for Edcouch-Elsa High School in my congressional district.

Coach Capello recently celebrated his 800th career victory, making him the only Hispanic high school basketball coach in the Nation with 800 victories. Even more remarkable, Coach Capello boasts a 69 percent victory percentage over his 36-year career at the helm of the Edcouch-Elsa Yellowjackets. His great success over the years is evidenced not only by that career victory milestone but by the many championships his teams have won. The Edcouch-Elsa Basketball Team has been District Champions for 11 of the past 19 years. They have played in the Texas State playoffs in 19 of the past 21 years. They are the first school in the Rio Grande Valley to send four players to the Texas High School Coaches Association South All Star games.

Robert Capello is not only an excellent basketball coach, he has also been an extraordinary role model and mentor to hundreds of boys and girls who have graduated from Edcouch-Elsa High School over the years. He inspires his athletes to excel both on the court and in the classroom, and has encouraged all students at Edcouch-Elsa to reach their fullest potential by pursuing a college education.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all Members of Congress to join me in congratulating Coach Robert Capello for his 800th career basketball victory, and for his 36 years of inspirational leadership and caring commitment to the students of Edcouch-Elsa High School.

HONORING FRANK MEEKS AS THE MOUNT VERNON-LEE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CHAMBER CITIZEN OF THE YEAR, 2002

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Frank Meeks, who has recently been named the Chamber Citizen of the Year by the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Meeks earned a degree in political science and English from the University of Southern Mississippi, with the goal of attending law school. In order to help defray the cost of continuing his education, he became a delivery boy for Domino's Pizza in 1979. Within a short amount of time, Mr. Meeks became manager of the store, and decided to stay with Domino's.

In December 1980, Mr. Meeks took 2 years off from Domino's Pizza and served as a congressional aide for Senator TRENT LOTT, then a Member of the House of Representatives. Mr. Meeks continued to earn extra money by assisting Domino's Pizza in opening up new stores in the Virginia area. After 2 years with Mr. LOTT, Mr. Meeks decided to return to Domino's and was awarded the franchise for Northern Virginia and Washington, DC. Mr. Meeks opened his first store in July 1983 in Alexandria, Virginia. Today, Frank Meeks oversees the operation of fifty-nine Domino's Pizza stores in Washington, DC, Maryland, and Northern Virginia. Mr. Meek's franchise, Domino's Pizza Team Washington, continues to be one of the top franchises in Domino's Pizza, Inc.

Under Mr. Meek's leadership, Team Washington has been active in supporting area schools. Team Washington has generously contributed to the post prom and after graduation parties in Fairfax County, Virginia, and Montgomery County, Maryland. In addition, Team Washington has also contributed to the Washington's Children's National Medical Center, Food and Friends, Mount Vernon High School, and numerous other organizations.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, it gives me great pleasure to extend my warmest congratulations to Mr. Frank Meeks. I call upon my colleagues to join me in honoring him for all of his success and dedication to his work and the community.

TRIBUTE TO DELOISE JONES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2003

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, in commemoration of Black History Month, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the many accomplishments of distinguished African-Americans in Mississippi's Second Congressional District.

Today I rise to pay tribute to Deloise Jones. Mrs. Jones is a native of Jackson, Mississippi. She earned a bachelor's degree in Economics from Tougaloo College. She then went on to earn a master's degree in Early Childhood Education from Jackson State University.